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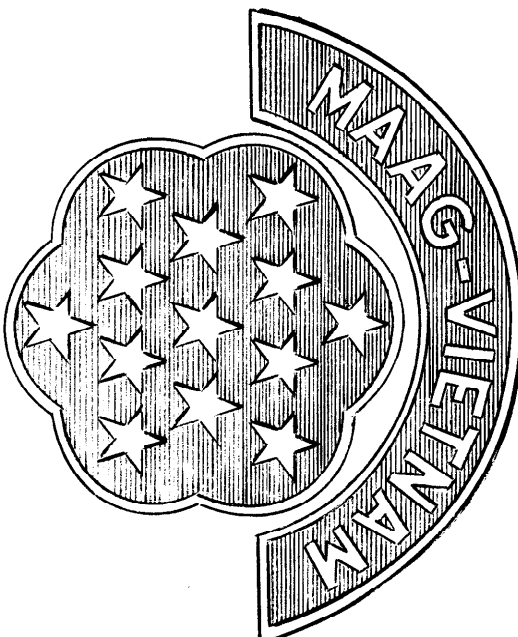
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LESSONS LEARNED



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ARMY WAR COLLEGE

MAY 18 1964

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HEADQUARTERS
U.S. ARMY SECTION
MILITARY ASSISTANCE ADVISORY GROUP, VIETNAM
APO 143, San Francisco, California

MAGAR-OT (S&A)

SUBJECT: Lessons Learned Number 41: Defense of the New Life Hamlets

TO: See Distribution

1. (U) Attached as Inclosure 1 is the latest "Lessons Learned" from counterinsurgency operations in the Republic of Vietnam.

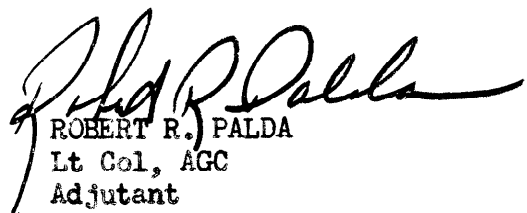
2. (U) The information contained in "Lessons Learned" is primarily intended for use by US Advisors in Vietnam. Lessons may be of value for direct application, or they may simply reinforce existing tactics, techniques, or doctrine.

3. (CMHA) This document is classified CONFIDENTIAL to permit freedom of expression and careful analysis of operational methods and tactics of the Republic of Vietnam Armed Forces, to protect US advisor-counterpart relations and to deny any possible use of insurgent forces. Special handling is required under the applicable provisions of DA-DCMI (A) when released to friendly nations. Release to personnel of the Republic of Vietnam will be governed by the provisions of MACV Memo 6, 13 Oct 62 and MAAG Memo 380-4, 12 Nov 63. Sanitized versions of this information omitting dates, names of locations and participation personnel and units may be prepared for instructional purposes and/or official US Army publications.

4. (U) Comments, questions and requests for changes in distribution should be addressed to this headquarters, ATTN: O&T Division, USASEC.

FOR THE CHIEF:

1 Incl
as


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TO: See Distribution

1. (U) INTRODUCTION: This "Lessons Learned" is devoted to a discussion of the Defense of the New Life Hamlets. Its purpose is to explain how the people in the small hamlets or villages of the Republic of Vietnam(RVN) can defend themselves or at least delay the overrunning of their homes that come under attack by the Viet Cong (VC) until additional military assistance arrives. This Lessons Learned discusses those government organizations, hamlet facilities, tactics, training programs and background conditions that are necessary to provide a secure atmosphere in which the rural people of RVN can live and work and raise their families in peace and prosperity.

2. (CMHA) CONSIDERATIONS: In order to create this atmosphere of stability and security (which is guaranteed by government control of an area) the following conditions must be considered or these circumstances should exist:

a. People in the provincial capitals, district capitals, villages, and especially in the New Life Hamlets, must be sympathetic to and in agreement with the policies and programs of the national government. This means that the majority of the inhabitants of the New Life Hamlets support the government, the New Life Hamlet Program and the various reforms that are being attempted. Citizens should not be forced to move into new settlement areas against their will. Voluntary resettlement will ensure that the majority of the population remains loyal to the government and supports the various reforms.

b. People of the New Life Hamlets must have the desire to defend themselves and their property from attacks and extortion practice of the Viet Cong (VC). They must have pride in the New Life Hamlets, in the government that sponsors them, and in the government forces that defend them. ARVN troops must be welcomed to the villages and hamlets as rightful defenders of the people. A similar friendly cooperative spirit must greet the arrival and employment of Civil Guard/Self Defense Corps (CG/SDC) troops in these areas. Militia recruited from the hamlet population must be loyal, dedicated individuals who are ready and willing to defend the lives and property of the other members of the community.

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c. To insure that the preceding conditions or circumstances are attained as quickly and as efficiently as possible, government control of the area must be an actuality as a result of military operations conducted in the area. Furthermore, to allow the people of the hamlets to move into their new homes, to permit the local government agencies to function, to allow reform programs to develop, and to give time to the local self-defense forces to organize, develop, and assume responsibility for the security of the area, control of these areas must be guaranteed by National Government forces. Clear and Hold operations, as discussed in Lessons Learned #35, must be successfully conducted in the proposed area of new settlements. Then and only then can these programs be initiated with expectation of success.

d. Hamlet Paramilitary Forces. Various paramilitary groups have been formed which have the mission of providing limited security to the hamlets subject to VC attacks until relieved or reinforced by regular ARVN units, Civil Guard Companies or SDC platoons. Hamlet Militia, Combat Youth, and CIDG Strike Forces are the best known groups.

e. Loyalty of the Hamlet Militia. The volunteer Hamlet Militia man is the foundation upon which a successful defense of the hamlets must be built. Careful selection of those personnel is one of the most formidable tasks that faces any New Life Hamlet. The admission into the local security forces of any person who has not demonstrated his loyalty and dedication to the Government of Vietnam (GVN) must be considered a security risk and not acceptable either for training or for arming.

f. Training for the Hamlet Militia. Full exploitation of the capabilities of Hamlet Militia will be possible only after adequate training in the employment of individual weapons and instruction in patrolling, ambush, security, and close-in defensive combat. A recommended training program for Hamlet Militia is included as Inclosure 1.

g. Leadership of the Hamlet Militia:

(1) The fullest possible success of the program will be realized only when the leadership of the Hamlet Militia is strong and is recognized. Training, guidance, and instruction should develop the leader's understanding of his duties and responsibilities to his subordinates and the community that he defends.

(2) Fullest advantage must be taken of the experience and skills of hamlet citizens who have had previous military service. Leadership ability developed through many years of military service is a valuable asset not only to the hamlet militia members but also to those elected to fill the various village or hamlet council jobs. Former military service is particularly valuable to the Hamlet Chief and the Hamlet

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Security Chief in developing an understanding and appreciation of the hamlet security and defense mission.

3. (CMHA) DISCUSSION:

a. Hamlet Militia.

(1) Recruiting

STRONG LEADERSHIP, CAREFUL MANAGEMENT, AND CLOSE COOPERATION AMONG RESPONSIBLE AGENCIES MUST BE EMPLOYED WHEN RECRUITING AND TRAINING HAMLET MILITIA.

(a) Responsibility for loyalty checks should be decentralized to districts or villages. Local officials are best qualified to know the character, background, and associations of the hamlet inhabitants. Retaining this function at province level delays processing and creates excessive administrative burdens. Loyalty must be determined before training begins. The practice of training militiamen, issuing weapons, and then withdrawing them as a result of suspect loyalty is a dangerous procedure that creates a false sense of security within the hamlet. It is also a waste of the training facility, instructor personnel, equipment and time. Furthermore, periodic loyalty checks are necessary to guard against constant attempts by VC agents either to subvert the Hamlet Militia or to infiltrate the organization with their own personnel. Many hamlet defenses have been rendered useless by the careful placement of one or two VC agents either in the hamlet militia or in the other paramilitary organizations that often provide security to the New Life Hamlets.

(b) Militia service must be made as attractive as possible. Hamlet leaders must motivate the people to want to defend themselves. A demonstration of the support available to a hamlet should be arranged to assist in recruiting. For example, an artillery concentration could be fired in a jungle area adjacent to the hamlet as an example of available external support. A simulated air strike could be executed on-call through the hamlet communications system. The local SDC platoon could demonstrate its firepower and its reinforcing capabilities. Prospective militia might be given an opportunity to fire a weapon. The training program should be explained, preferably by a recent trainee from a neighboring hamlet. The ideas for selling the program are simple and numerous.

(2) Training.

IF THE MILITIA TRAINING PROGRAM IS WELL PLANNED AND WELL CONDUCTED, TRAINEES WHO COMPLETE THE REQUIRED COURSE SHOULD ACQUIRE CONFIDENCE AND ABILITY TO PROVIDE ADEQUATE DEFENSE FOR THE HAMLETS UNTIL SUPPORT OR REINFORCEMENTS ARRIVE

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(a) Adequate training programs can often be conducted in and around the hamlets. Familiarity with the terrain, the decrease in logistical support, and a devotion to duty to defend his home enhance the desirability of this course of action. At other times militia trainees could be instructed at nearby CG/SDC training centers.

(b) Whatever the case, qualified instructors, adequate training areas, and appropriate training aids and equipment must be available if a successful program is to be conducted. The following subjects are mandatory: Weapons instructions to include marksmanship and care and cleaning, tactics to include defensive organizations, ambushes, counter-ambushes, raids, mines and booby traps, and first aid. (See Inclosure 1 for a suggested Training Program).

(c) Appropriate and meaningful ceremonies should be scheduled at the completion of the training. Outstanding performances during training, especially the marksmanship phase, should be recognized and rewarded. As a final gesture of prestige and in an effort to instill a sense of duty and loyalty in the newly trained militiamen, weapons that will be used to defend the hamlets should be issued.

(3) Leadership.

THE SAME LEADERSHIP PRINCIPLES WHICH ARE CONSIDERED SO IMPORTANT TO ANY MILITARY ORGANIZATION FIND THEIR DEVELOPMENT AND APPLICATION EQUALLY ESSENTIAL IN THE HAMLET MILITIA.

(a) These small independent units which often operate out of range of strong government forces must be led by brave, courageous leaders. The leaders must know their job, seek self-improvement, and demonstrate real concern for the welfare of the men under their command. Their mission is to protect the lives and property of the local populace from the bandit-like attacks of the Viet Cong. This is a task for a skilled, strong-willed, aggressive leader.

(b) Hamlet Militiamen, through their leaders, should be called upon for advice in hamlet affairs, especially on matters concerning hamlet defense. This is an effective means of developing morale and esprit de corps in the Hamlet Militia and developing leadership of the commanders. Every effort should be made to make the militia, through their leaders, feel like an important and integral part of the hamlet organization.

b. Principles of Defense of Hamlets.

(1) Concept.

THE CONCEPT OF DEFENSE FOR HAMLETS IS BASED ON THE PRINCIPLE OF MUTUAL SUPPORT WHEREBY THE "MOTHER VILLAGE" AND THE SMALLER "CHILDREN HAMLETS" MUTUALLY PROTECT EACH OTHER UNTIL OUTSIDE AID CAN BE SUMMONED.

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(a) The child (hamlet) maintains contact by radio, telephone or runner with the mother (village) which maintains radio contact with district or subdistrict headquarters.

(b) Hamlet Militia are not trained or equipped for offensive combat. They can provide for the limited defense of the hamlet until other forces (SDC, CG, or ARVN) arrive. Militia outguards, sentinels, and ambushes provide early warning of the approaching VC, and they then join those militia still inside and attempt to hold the attackers outside the fences.

(c) When under attack, flare ships, air strikes, and artillery fire lend on-call support to the hamlet defenders and attempt to delay the overrunning of the hamlet until other supporting forces or reinforcements arrive. When it is evident that the hamlet might be penetrated or overrun by a superior VC force, the inhabitants hide their weapons, ammunition, and radios, and then disperse to preselected hiding places. The attacking force finds a dark, deserted hamlet.

(d) Additional discussion of the concept of defense of hamlets is contained in Section IV B, paragraph 9, of the "Tactic and Techniques of Counterinsurgent Operations" manual. (Revised 1 July 1963).

(2) Hamlet Defensive Tactics.

THE ACTION PART OF THE WAR IN THE HAMLETS IS WAGED ALMOST ENTIRELY DURING HOURS OF DARKNESS.

(a) At night the hamlet defense must be fully alert. Under no circumstances, after the gates are closed, should any watch towers or sentry posts be manned for defense. These are perfect targets for Viet Cong. Instead, a part of the militia should patrol stealthily within hand grenade range of the hamlet perimeter or establish ambushes on likely avenues of approach. (See Lessons Learned #39, "Ambush Operations"). They should not move about too much and should seek shelter from observation so that any would-be attackers have no idea where they are. The remainder of the unit not on patrol should be under a squad commander located centrally in reserve. They should not be stationed or sleep in the same area each night. It is easy to attack a position at night when one knows the ground and the exact positions where all the defenders are located. Most of the advantage of surprise is with the attacker since he can choose the night and time. Only by varying the defensive arrangements can the defenders gain some element of surprise.

(b) The militia need to be even more alert at dusk and dawn, since these are the most usual times that the Viet Cong will use various

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ruses to try to enter the hamlet. VC often pretend to be a SDC squad returning from patrol. Likewise, they have entered hamlets on the early morning buses simply by arriving as passengers. (See Inclosure #3)

(3) Intelligence.

KNOWLEDGE OF VC ACTIVITIES AND INTENTIONS CAN PROVIDE VALUABLE INFORMATION WHICH CAN IMPROVE THE DEFENSE OF A HAMLET.

(a) Advisors at all levels must constantly stress the necessity for continuous collection, processing and dissemination of any information about the VC.

(b) All ARVN, CG, and SDC troops, as well as Hamlet Militia and all loyal residents of the area, should be constantly alert for strange persons in the area, unexplainable movements of other hamlet residents, and sightings of known VC or VC units in or near the area.

(c) Significant information obtained in conversations from other villagers, information about changes or alterations to roads, trails and bridges, and rumors of large movements of people in the vicinity, must be reported to hamlet and village headquarters and passed on to the district and province operations and intelligence centers.

(d) Incidents where VC stop commercial traffic to collect taxes, to deliver propaganda lectures, or to commit acts of terrorism and extortion must be promptly reported. Such acts should be studied, analyzed and evaluated and necessary action taken promptly. Leaflets, posters, and other documents must be delivered to intelligence personnel for examination, analysis and evaluation.

(e) Intelligence cells should be organized, constantly contacted, and closely supervised. Ideally, the enemy's intentions should be determined in sufficient time to permit appropriate action before he attacks.

(f) Initially it will be difficult to convince hamlet residents and village and district officials of the value of the seemingly insignificant sightings and information. Breakdown of the intelligence network will be experienced at each level of operation and command. However, when a province finally establishes clear, prompt, reliable sources of information on VC activities, planning and execution of meaningful combat operations will become possible. The resulting success of GVN forces and

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subsequent decrease in effectiveness of VC should lead to a more secure province, result in safer hamlets, and further increase the difficulties of operations for the VC.

(4) Warning Devices

ADVISORS MUST ENCOURAGE THE DEVELOPMENT AND USE OF LOCAL RESOURCES AS WELL AS COMMERCIAL WARNING DEVICES, TO SOUND THE ALARM WHEN HAMLETS ARE ATTACKED.

(a) The bonfire has been used for centuries as a cheap and reliable signaling device. Wooden rattles, gongs, lengths of scrap metal, sirens, etc, all serve as good type alarms if properly installed. The number and type of expedients are limited only by the imagination, initiative, and ingenuity of the people who will employ them.

(b) Warning devices that have proven successful are trip flares, tin cans and similar type noise makers hung on barbed wire fences surrounding the hamlets. Even dogs can alert to the approach of the VC. Patrols, ambushes and stay-behind forces in or along likely avenues of approach are in themselves excellent warning devices. Noise of the combat if contact is made, runners to the Hamlet Militia headquarters, or flares set off by forces in contact should give ample warning to the hamlet inhabitants of an impending VC attack.

(c) Inclosures 8 and 9 describe in detail two excellent examples of simple warning devices that can be produced locally from readily available materials. Both devices are simple to construct and easy to install. They have proven to be effective in those hamlets where they have been installed, alerting the residents to persons (VC) and animals that should not be in the vicinity of the hamlet fences.

(5) Communications.

RADIO HAS PROVED TO BE THE MOST RELIABLE MEANS OF COMMUNICATIONS FOR SUMMONING HELP TO A HAMLET UNDER ATTACK. A complete family of sturdy, serviceable, and reliable radios has been developed for this purpose. Most hamlets are provided by USOM with the HT-1 type radio, range 4 miles (5.5 kilometers). Villages are provided with a HT-1 or the TR-5, range 10 miles (16 kilometers); and district headquarters with a TR-20, range 20 miles (32 kilometers). (See Inclosure 4).

(6) Fences

THROUGH THEY ARE THE MOST DISTINGUISHING FEATURE OF THE

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NEW LIFE HAMLETS (except for those located along canals in the Delta),
FENCES ALONE WILL NOT PREVENT THE ENTRANCE OF A DETERMINED VIET CONG UNIT.

(a) When fabricated of green "living" plants and trees (bamboo and thorn bushes) and reinforced with barbed wire, booby traps, and poison plants, they provide a strong, dense, and continually improving obstacle. These fences also serve as a boundary marking those areas of the hamlet which can be and must be defended. (See Inclosure 5).

(b) A fuller description of fences with illustrations on how they should be constructed is presented in the "Tactics and Techniques of Counterinsurgent Operations" manual (Revised 1 July 1963) on page IV B-10, paragraph 9d. Also see Figures IV B1, B2, B3, B4, and B5.

(7) Supplementary Obstacles.

MOATS, TRAPS, SPIKES, WARNING DEVICES, CLEARED FIELDS OF FIRE AND FIELDS OF OBSERVATION ARE BUT A FEW OF THE SUPPLEMENTARY OBSTACLES THAT CAN ENHANCE THE VALUE OF THE FENCES AS AN OBSTACLE OR BARRIER.

The continued improvement of the existing obstacles and the addition of new obstructions are matters for constant attention by hamlet and district authorities. The US advisors and their counterparts at all levels of command who deal with the problem of hamlet security must apply imagination and ingenuity to conceive new casualty producing devices that can harass, delay, and disrupt the VC attackers. (See Inclosure 6).

(8) Fighting Positions.

INITIAL FIGHTING POSITIONS FOR THE MILITIAMEN ARE OFTEN OUTSIDE, BUT WITHIN HAND GRENADE RANGE, OF THE FENCES OF THE HAMLET.

The area immediately outside the fences and supplementary obstacles should be cleared to provide observation and good fields of fire. There the militia should set up ambushes for small VC patrols. If the enemy force is large and powerful, then the militia withdraws into the hamlet and is reinforced by the remaining Hamlet Militiamen and the residents of the hamlet. The alarm is sounded, and SDC, CG, or ARVN reinforcements are requested.

(9) Fire Support.

ARTILLERY CONCENTRATIONS ON LIKELY VC ASSEMBLY AREAS,

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ROUTES OF APPROACH AND WITHDRAWAL, AND RALLY POINTS SHOULD BE PLOTTED IN ADVANCE IN THE VICINITY OF EACH HAMLET.

(a) All members of the Hamlet Militia should be instructed in the fundamentals of directing simple fire missions so that requested artillery and mortar support will be effective.

(b) Artillery and mortar fire, including illumination missions, as well as Air Force flare ships act as deterrents to the Viet Cong and gives a psychological boost to the hamlet defenders. Promptness in requesting flare ships and artillery and air support and accuracy in its deliverance will strengthen the deterrence value of these supporting arms and agencies

(10) Alertness.

A GOSPEL OF CONSTANT VIGILANCE AND ALERTNESS MUST BE PRELACHED TO HAMLET RESIDENTS.

(a) Only by early warning can adequate defense, timely reinforcement, and workable countermeasures be put into action. All inhabitants must participate in 24 hours alertness. Buffalo boys, old men, women cutting rice, as well as hamlet lookouts must be utilized to detect and report Viet Cong activity in the area.

(b) In most hamlets in open populated areas, only one or two sentinels stand watch during daylight hours. They can be any able-bodied member of the community. Hamlet Militia should not perform this duty. (See Inclosure 7).

(c) The need for constant vigilance against VC ruses and tricks to gain unopposed entry into hamlets should be emphasized again. Personnel must not become imbued with the idea that attackers will always arrive on foot. Security measures should always strive for the detection and destruction or capture of all enemy personnel and enemy-occupied vehicles while they are approaching hamlets. Every approaching vehicle should be regarded with suspicion. They should, as a matter of routine course, be required to stop a safe distance from the hamlet where, under cover of weapons, they can be inspected. Suspicious groups of personnel should be required to dismount and the vehicles thoroughly searched. If at all possible, vehicles merely passing through hamlets should be routed away from entrances and guard posts. As a minimum security measure, buses should be kept under close surveillance while approaching, passing through, stopped for loading and unloading, and until they have departed the hamlet area.

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(d) Alertness during hours of darkness is an absolute necessity, and the system providing it must be foolproof. Sentries should be provided by a trained portion of the hamlet militia each night. However a system or routine must be established in each hamlet to allow the militia to get sufficient rest and sleep, so that those posted for duty each night are alert and vigilant.

(e) The alert mission at night can be accomplished in a variety of ways. Sentinels, outguards, listening posts, roving patrols, and ambush patrols are examples of a few methods in which the necessary degree of alertness is guaranteed the hamlets and villages.

(11) Countermeasures.

WHEN A HAMLET IS ATTACKED, REACTION TIME FOR THE ARRIVAL OF AID IN THE FORM OF TROOP REINFORCEMENTS, FIRE SUPPORT, OR FLARE SHIPS IS CRITICAL, AND EVERY EFFORT MUST BE MADE TO REDUCE IT TO A MINIMUM.

(a) Prompt and accurate artillery and mortar fire support is the most rapid countermeasure that can be taken.

(b) Secondly, the arrival of Air Force flare ships over a hamlet under attack often causes the VC to break off the action.

(c) If Air Force support is available, it can often be successfully directed toward the enemy by the use of a lighted ground arrow. Each hamlet should construct one for such emergencies.

(d) In the case of troop reinforcements, plans must be made and kept current. They should include provisions for means to alert forces, determine necessary size, and provide for their movement to the hamlet under attack. Plans must include the route, transport means, and necessary security. Basic contingency plans must be prepared for their employment and provisions made for their subsequent relief and return to base.

c. Additional Measures

(1) Visits.

SYSTEMATIC VISITS AND INSPECTIONS OF HAMLETS BY VIETNAMESE OFFICIALS, ACCOMPANIED BY US ADVISORS, DEMONSTRATE AN OUTSIDE INTEREST TO THE PEOPLE OF THE HAMLETS AND PROVIDE VALUABLE INFORMATION ABOUT THE

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ADEQUACY OF DEFENSES, GENERAL WELFARE, AND MORALE OF THE INHABITANTS.

(a) Many sector advisory teams have organized special contact teams to perform these periodic visits and inspections. The areas of interest encompass every aspect of hamlet life and generally include the following: Governmental organization and operation of hamlet defenses, training facilities and programs, condition of weapons and equipment, maintenance procedures and facilities, general welfare of inhabitants to include health and sanitation conditions, and other economic and social conditions of hamlet life.

(b) In addition to inspecting, these teams offer advice and assistance in such areas as preventative maintenance, sanitation, training and logistics. They also organize and conduct limited marksmanship training.

(c) As a result of these periodic visits, the problems of the districts and hamlets become known, and satisfactory solutions are more easily recommended. This type action by US advisors sets a commendable example for Vietnamese counterparts to follow.

(2) Psychological Warfare and Civic Action.

THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT MUST TELL ITS STORY TO THE PEOPLE OF THE HAMLETS.

(a) The use of psychological warfare and planned, coordinated civic action should not be overlooked as major factors in developing favorable public opinion and fostering active opposition to the Viet Cong. The hamlet people, especially the village defenders, must be imbued with a spirit of resistance and active will to fight the communist guerrilla. Full use must be made of the tools available. Audio-visual Jeepsters, Lambretta Scooters, loudspeaker helicopters and fixed wing aircraft, leaflets, movies, lectures - all these tools must receive widespread use in the remotest hamlets.

(b) The government must exploit each and every situation, disastrous or victorious, to demonstrate to the people that their welfare is the government's chief concern. Hamlets or hamlet facilities damaged or destroyed as a result of VC terrorism must be replaced or repaired promptly and completely. Immediate medical aid for the injured and destitute must be available to relieve the suffering caused by the VC attacks. Heroism

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and acts of valor by the Hamlet Militia, Combat Youth, CIDG Strike Forces and ordinary citizens of the hamlets must be promptly and properly recognized. Often monetary benefits are most appropriate, understood, and appreciated.

(c) CIVIC ACTION IS OFTEN THE MAJOR CONTRIBUTING FACTOR IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF FAVORABLE PUBLIC OPINION. In addition to food, water, shelter, medical attention and protection from VC, a progressive program of long range improvement of life, such as new wells, better crops, improved livestock and sanitation, and fostering self-help projects will assist development of a strong, healthy, anti-communist people. The loyalty of the people in the New Life Hamlets to the constitutionally established government in RVN is absolutely necessary for the final defeat of the Viet Cong Forces.

4. (U) LESSONS LEARNED:

a. When recruiting and training Hamlet Militia to defend the New Life Hamlets, strong leadership within the hamlet and assisting organizations, careful management of hamlet resources and training facilities, and close cooperation among all responsible agencies must be attained.

b. If the training program is carefully planned and well conducted, the trainees will acquire the necessary confidence and ability to provide an adequate defense to a hamlet under attack until support in the form of artillery fire, mortar barrages, Air Force flare aircraft or troop reinforcements can arrive.

c. The same leadership principles which are so important to any military organization find their development and application similarly essential in the Hamlet Militia.

d. The most effective concept of defense for hamlets is based on the principle of mutual support. The larger village and the surrounding smaller hamlets mutually assist in the defense of each other until other support or reinforcements arrive.

e. Hamlet defenders must always be alert, especially so during the hours of darkness.

f. Intelligence of VC activity, if properly reported, collected, disseminated, and evaluated is a vital part of adequate hamlet defense.

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SUBJECT: Lessons Learned Number 41: Defense of the New Life Hamlets

g. Each hamlet must be provided with a satisfactory communications system to warn hamlet residents and to summon help in case of VC attack.

h. Fences, when properly constructed and reinforced with supplementary obstacles, provide a continually improving barrier which clearly marks the area around the hamlet to be defended and prevents easy access by a determined VC attacker.

i. All basic tactical principles of defense are applicable when planning the defense of any hamlet. Those which should be especially emphasized are adequate fire support, obstacles, communications and mutual support.

j. Systematic visits and inspections of hamlets by Vietnamese officials, accompanied by US advisors, demonstrate the government's interest in the people of the hamlets. Visits also provide valuable information of adequate defenses, hamlet facilities, and the general welfare and morale of the inhabitants.

k. Psychological warfare activities and civic action projects are major contributing factors to the development of strong, healthy anti-communist people in the New Life Hamlets.

9 Incl


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Brigadier General, USA
Chief

DISTRIBUTION:

Special (Lessons Learned)

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PROPOSED HAMLET MILITIA TRAINING PROGRAM

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SECTION I

GENERAL

1. Purpose - This training program is a guide for the preparation of lesson plans and the conduct of training of the Hamlet Militia.
2. Training objective - The objective of this training is to produce an individual indoctrinated and drilled in the fundamentals of hamlet defense.
3. Modification - In those circumstances where languages present a problem, Sector Commanders may extend training for one week. Training center commanders may modify this training program to meet specific requirements of the local situation. Modification authority does not include the deletion of mandatory subjects prescribed by higher authority.
4. Safety and realism - The firing of all types of ammunition and weapons will be governed by the provisions of appropriate field and technical manuals. Common sense is a guiding principal of safety. Safe practices and safe physical standards will be incorporated in all instruction and procedures.

SECTION II

SUMMARY

<u>A. GENERAL SUBJECTS</u>	<u>HOURS</u>	
	<u>DAY</u>	<u>NIGHT</u>
1. Political indoctrination and civic action	8	
2. First aid and sanitation	2	
3. Intelligence and counter-intelligence	9	6
4. Liaison (Signals,)	2	3

Incl #1

		<u>HOURS</u>	
		<u>DAY</u>	<u>NIGHT</u>
5.	Hand to hand combat	2	3
6.	Boobytraps, familiarization and use	2	2
TOTAL:		<u>25</u>	<u>14</u>
B. <u>WEAPONS</u>			
1.	Carbine	16	4
2.	Shotgun, SMG and Pistol	3	
3.	Hand grenades	<u>3</u>	
TOTAL:		<u>22</u>	<u>4</u>
C. <u>TACTICS</u> -			
1.	Individual combat training	14	6
2.	3X3 Team	6	2
3.	Team Tactics	4	4
4.	Guerrilla tactics in attack of hamlets	8	3
5.	Organization and defense of a hamlet, field fortifications	12	12
6.	Reaction to VC penetration to include combat in hamlets	6	6
7.	Hamlet control points, population surveillance techniques, establish traffic control point	<u>6</u>	<u>6</u>
TOTAL:		<u>56</u>	<u>39</u>

SECTION III

SUBJECT SCOPES

A. GENERAL SUBJECTS	<u>HOURS</u>
1. <u>Political Indoctrination and civic action</u> Government policies, individual freedoms and rights, individual duties, military obligations, doctrines and objectives of communism, civic action to win populace.	8
2. <u>First Aid</u> Teach the principles of first aid, self aid and evacuation as they apply to the battle and non-battle casualty. Teach the basic principles of individual and hamlet sanitation.	2

	<u>HOURS</u>
3. <u>Intelligence and counter-intelligence</u> Definition, function and importance of combat intelligence; essential elements of information and collection of information; processing and dissemination VC methods of intelligence and counter-intelligence.	15
4. <u>Communications</u> Instruction in general communications used in hamlets; emphasis on hand and arm signals and pyrotechnics.	5
5. <u>Hand to hand combat</u> To teach the blows, holds, footwork and armwork used to disable or kill. Stress simple aggressive tactics together with basic throws and disarming maneuvers; teach self confidence and the will to close with the VC	5
6. <u>Boobytrap, familiarization and use</u> Familiarization, construction and use of boobytraps using hand grenades; flame field expedients, night illumination devices and trip flares; practical application in integration of hand grenades into spiked fences, barbed wire obstacles and gate barriers.	4

B. WEAPONS

HOURS
DAY NIGHT

1. Carbine

An adjusted Modified Marksmanship Course, Army Subject Schedule #22-15, will be fired.

- Introduction)	Carbine		
- Preliminary firing)		4	
- Mechanical training			2	
- Zeroing			4	
- Prone and squatting positions			1	
- Kneeling and standing positions			1	
- Alternate combat range firing			4	
- Night vision and range determination				2
- *Night firing (25 meters)				2
TOTAL:			<u>16</u>	<u>4</u>

*It is recommended that signals utilized by local hamlets to initiate firing against the VC be intergrated into the firing exercise.

2. Shotgun, SMG and Pistol

- General - characteristics, nomenclature, disassembly and assembly, functioning, stoppage and immediate action, care and cleaning.

- Marksmanship training

Aiming and sight alinement
Firing positions
Adjustment of fire

- Practice firing

25 Meter firing
50 meter firing

TOTAL:

3

3. Hand grenades

- Functioning and use of the fragmentation, hand grenade and various smoke pots

1

- Grenade throwing positions

1

- Practical throwing of grenades

TOTAL:

1
3

C. TACTICS

HOURS

1. Individual combat training

20

- ### 2. 3X3 Team (SDC squad concept of 3 fire teams of 3 men each. To teach organization, operation and employment of the 3X3 team. Emphasis placed on movement and counter-ambush training.

8

3. Squad tactics

8

To teach organization, mission, function of the squad, stressing day and night practical work in ambush, counter-ambush, and reconnaissance patrols.

4. Guerrilla tactics in attack of hamlets

11

Procedures normally used by VC in attacking fortified hamlets; infiltration, correct penetrations of defenses; concentration of effect on weak spots; probing attack to cause defenders to expend ammunition and reveal fighting positions; use of deception to cause defenders to

lessen alertness. Practical application to include observation of existing fortified hamlets and orientation as to how a hamlet might be attacked.

5. Organization of defense of a hamlet and field fortifications

24

Confidence and orientation in defense methods of fortified hamlets and use of field fortifications. Practical work in developing expedient fortifications to include boobytraps, bamboo spikes, ditches and interior fencing around each house: daily inspections and improvements of fortifications and obstacles, organization and assignment of tasks to non-combatants in the defense of the hamlet. Orientation on construction of tunnels and their use. Conduct of the defense of a hamlet perimeter. Security measures imposed. Precautions taken to prevent guards from being surprised and over-powered before they can give the alarm. Methods of covering concealed approaches to the perimeter. Personnel provided with auxiliary exits and covered routes from their shelters to combat positions. Occupation of defense positions; assignments of fighting positions and sectors of fire; use and assignment of alternate and supplementary fighting positions; signals to open fire and cease fire; plans for ammunition resupply during attack; reorganization of defenses after attack.

6. Reaction to VC penetration

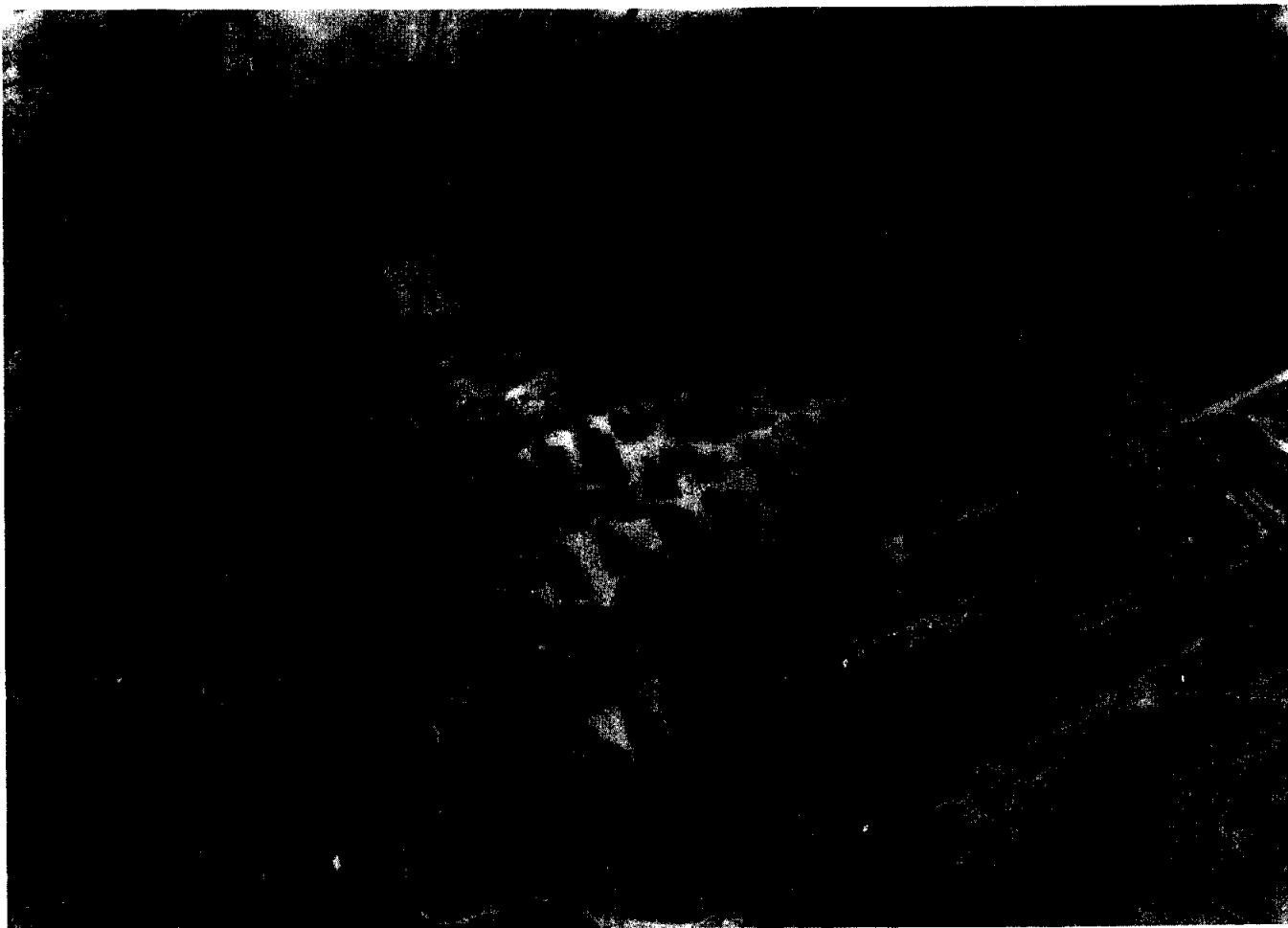
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Methods of conducting small scale counter-attack to disrupt or eject VC which have penetrated the perimeter. Emphasis to be placed on combat in hamlets. Elementary planning for counter-attack. Practical application day and night.

7. Hamlet control points

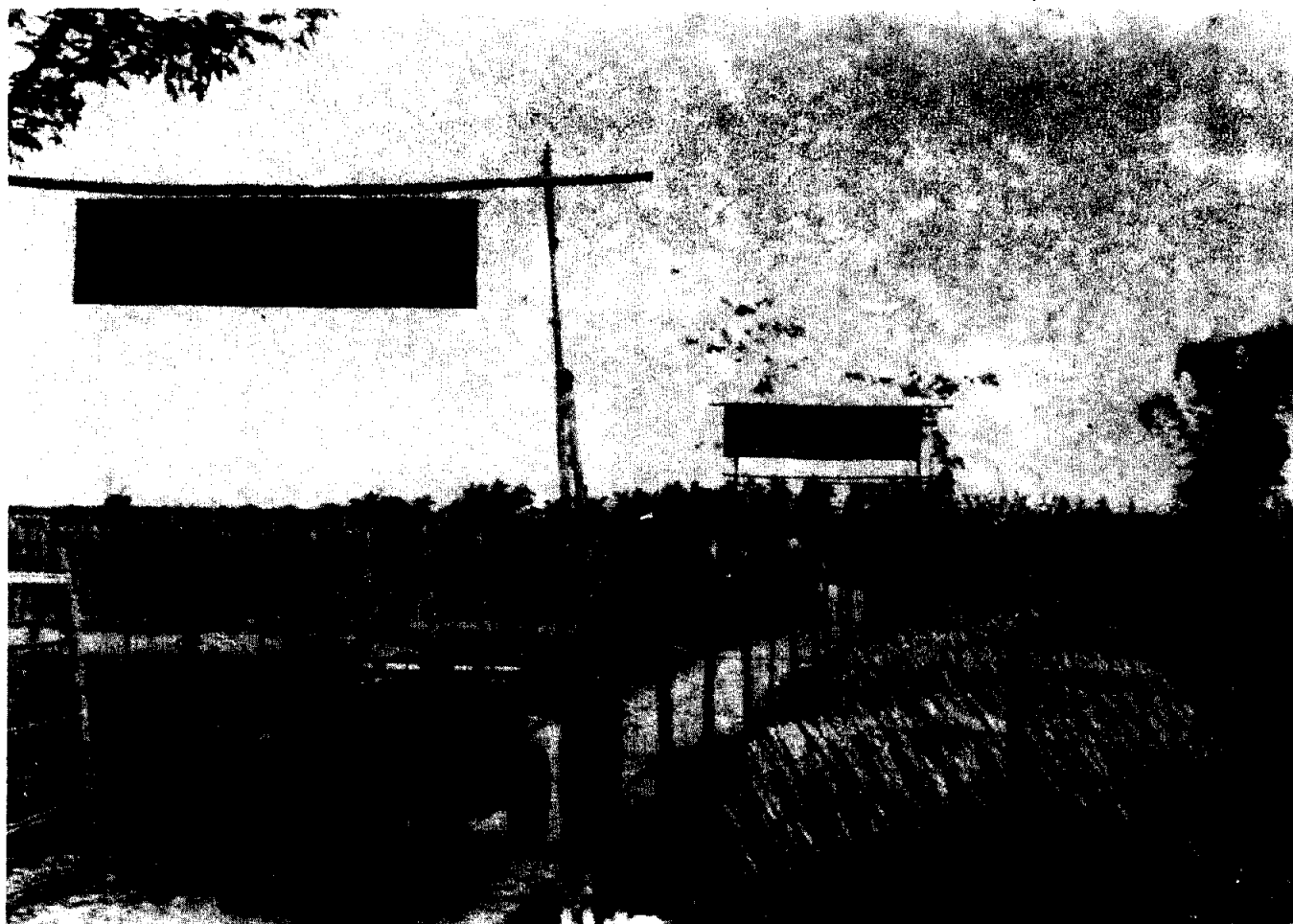
12

Missions of the control points; selection and organization of the control point; techniques of stopping, checking vehicles; prisoners and security.



Aerial view of a typical New Life Hamlet

Inclosure # 2



The fortified entrance to this New Life Hamlet helps prevent unopposed entry by VC

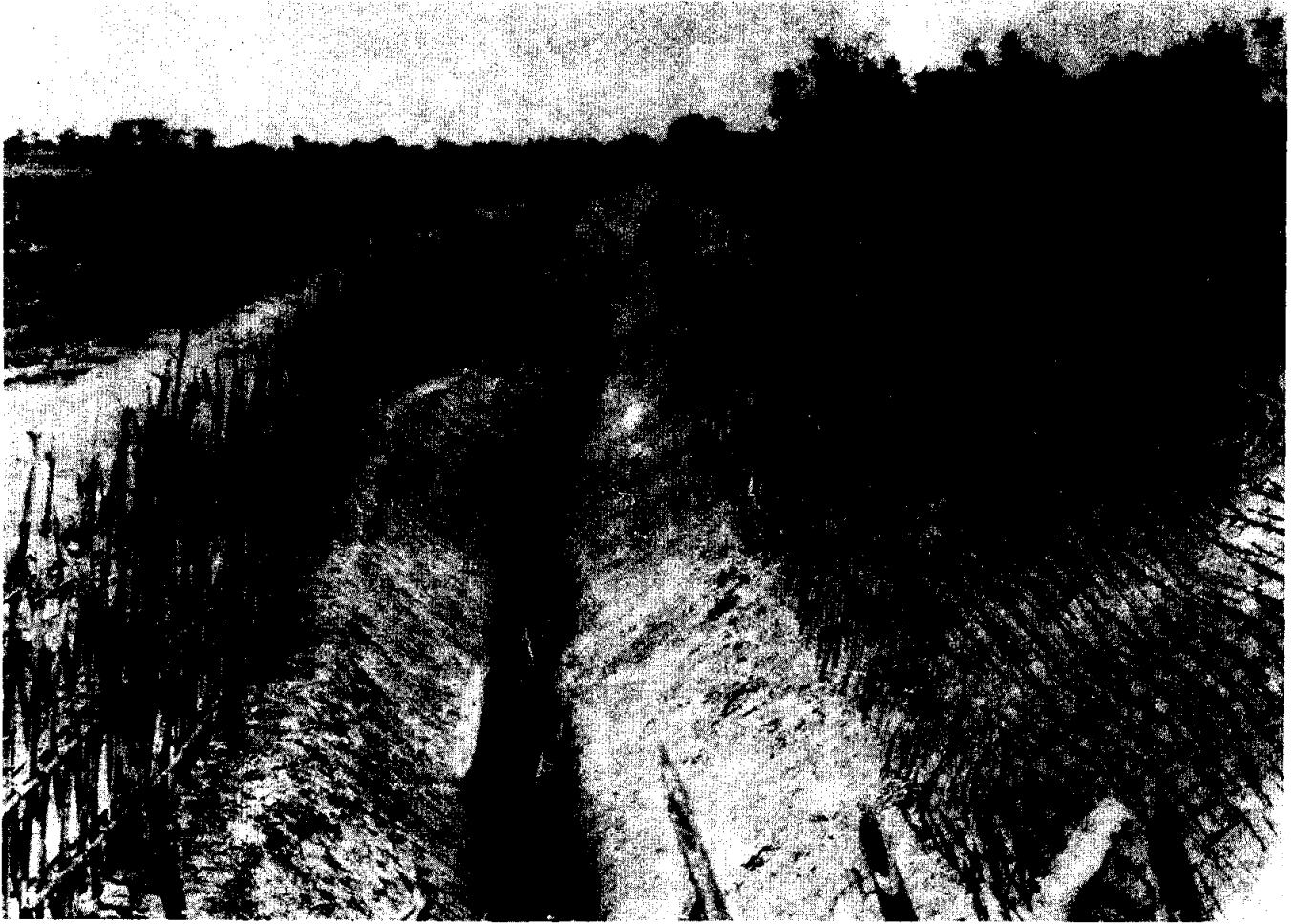


Radio has proven to be the most reliable means of communication for summoning help to a hamlet under attack.



Incl. #5

Barbed wire fences and supplementary obstacles prevent easy access by VC attackers into this hamlet



A Moat, "Punge stakes", bamboo fences, and cleared areas create a formidable obstacle that will deny the VC easy access into this hamlet.



During daylight hours the Sentinel in the watch tower provides warning to the inhabitants of this hamlet if a VC force approaches.

Inclosure # 7

WARNING DEVICE NUMBER I

1. This signal device is used for night warning. It is placed on the outside of barbed wire fences which surround the New Life Hamlets.

2. DESCRIPTION :

The entire device consists of (See Incl #1 to Incl 8):

- a. Flashlight battery, 4.5 volt.
- b. Iron clamp (A1)
- c. Flashlight bulb
- d. Iron rod (A2)
- e. Nylon wire
- f. Insulator B1 (Made of a piece of plastic)

3. ASSEMBLY :

It is assembled in the following manner:

a. The battery is held in place by the iron clamp (A1). One end of a piece of copper wire is soldered to the negative pole of the battery while the other end is rolled around the base of the bulb. When this is done, the bulb will produce light when its terminal contacts the positive pole of the battery.

b. A square piece of plastic (2cm X 2cm) is inserted between the positive pole of the battery and the terminal of the bulb as an insulator (B1).

c. One end of a piece of nylon wire is tied to the insulator (B1) and the other end to the iron rod (A2).

4. INSTALLATION (See Incl 2 to Incl 8)

a. Iron Clamp (A1) is planted in the ground with the bulb pointed toward the hamlet fence.

b. Iron rod (A2) is planted at an appropriate place. The distance from the iron rod (A1) and iron clamp (A2) varies depending on the length of the nylon wire and the place where the signal is installed.

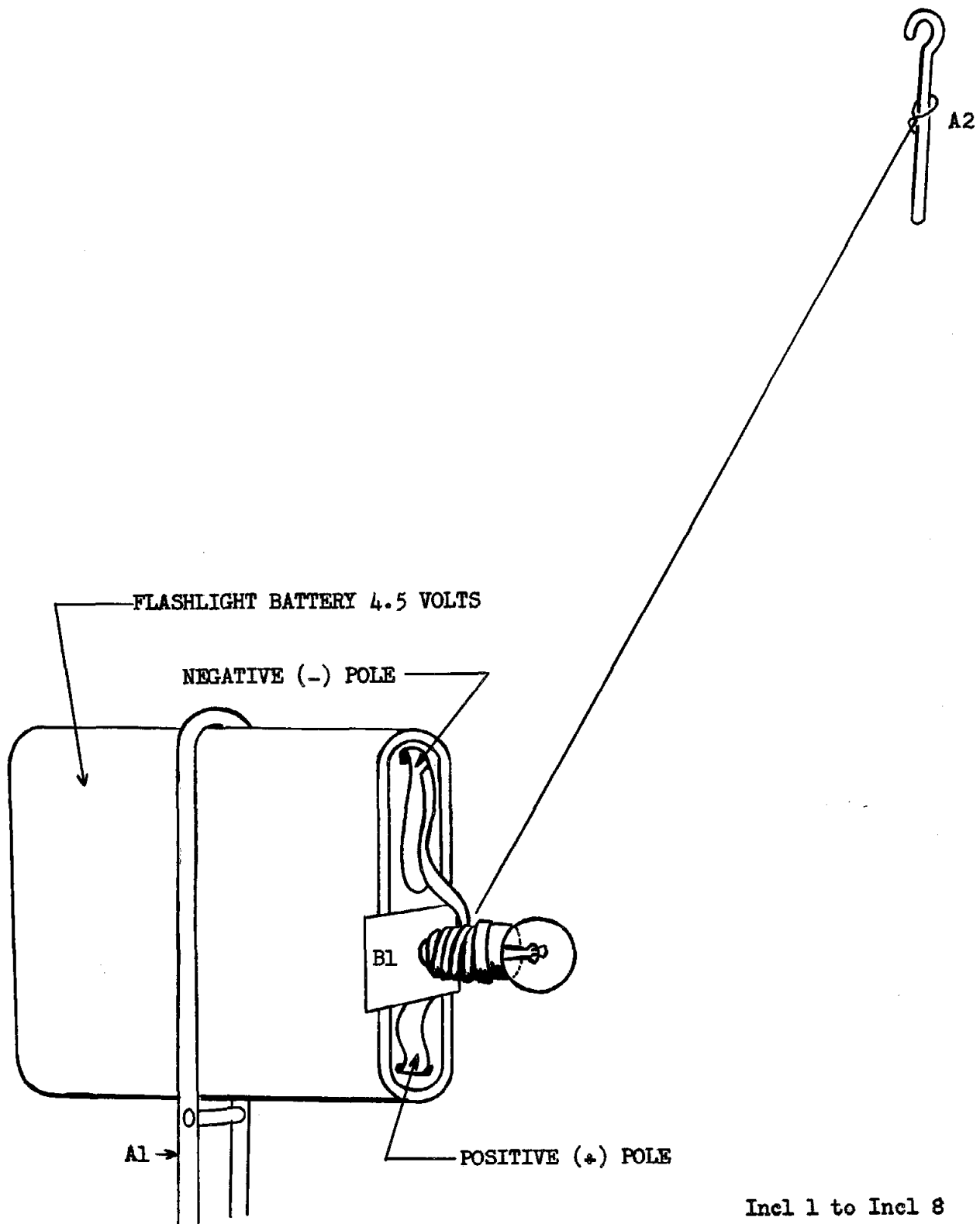
c. The insulator (B1) is inserted between the positive pole of the battery and the bulb terminal. Before inserting the insulator, this pole (which is made of a piece of brass) must be bent outward to facilitate its contact with the bulb terminal.

d. The tension of the wire which connects the iron pole (A2) with the insulator (B1) must be properly adjusted.

5. OPERATION

When a person moves toward the hamlet fence and hits the nylon wire, the insulator falls down and the bulb lights sounding the alarm when the terminal contacts the positive pole of the battery.

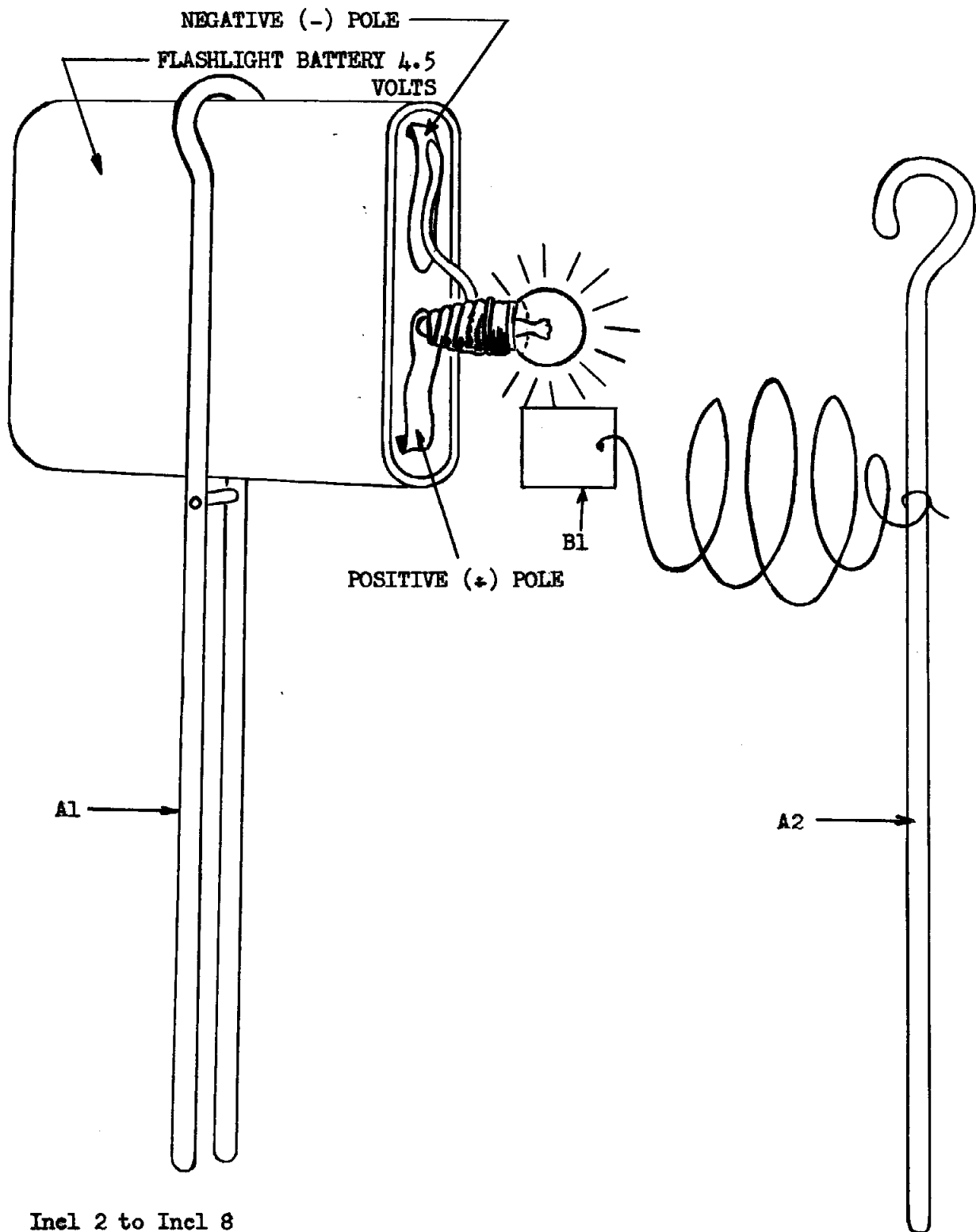
SIGNAL DEVICE #1
(SET UP POSITION - CIRCUIT OPEN)



Incl 1 to Incl 8

SIGNAL DEVICE #1

(CIRCUIT CLOSED)



Incl 2 to Incl 8

SIGNAL DEVICE NUMBER 2

1. This is another signal device that can sound the alarm when unauthorized persons approach New Life Hamlet fences.

2. DESCRIPTION (See Incl 1 to Incl 9)

The device consists of 12 components: (See Incl 1 to Incl 9)

- a. Body of the trap (A) (Mouse trap)
- b. Wooden bar (B)
- c. Spring (C)
- d. Cartridge well (D)
- e. Firing pin (E)
- f. Re-inforcing nail (F)
- g. Spring pin (G)
- h. Safety pin (H)
- i. Safety pin holding plate (I)
- j. Holding plate clamp (J)
- k. Striker (K)
- l. Trip wire hole (M)

3. ASSEMBLY

a. The mouse trap is fixed to a wooden bar which is 80cm long and has a pointed end.

b. A 10cm nail (re-inforcing nail "F") is soldered to the striker (K) to hold the firing pin in place when it strikes the cartridge.

c. The firing pin (E) is made of a piece of hard steel and is welded to the middle part of the striker (K).

d. A hole having the size of a rifle cartridge is perforated in the wooden part. The firing pin must be adjusted to hit the center of this hole.

Incl #9

e. The hole must have the shape of a rifle cartridge (See Incl 1 to Incl 9) so that when the firing pin strikes the primer, the cartridge is held in place and explodes.

f. A small hole (M) is perforated about 2cm below the cartridge hole where the trip wire is inserted.

4. INSTALLATION

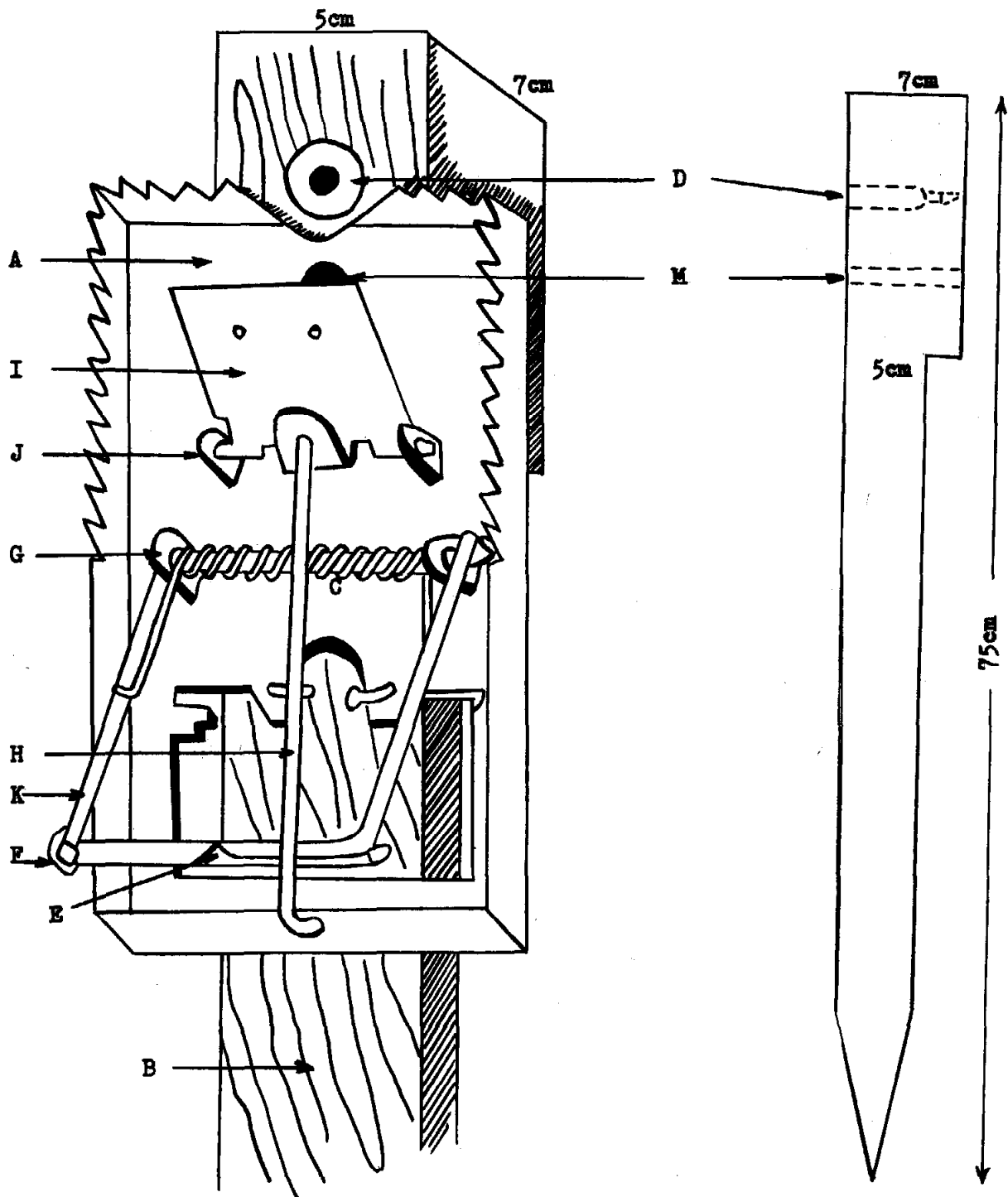
The device is installed at night on the outside of the hamlet fence in the following manner:

a. The pointed end of the wooden bar (B) is planted in the ground with the length of the cartridge parallel to the fence. The striker (K) is pulled backward (See Incl 1 to Incl 9). The safety pin holding plate (I) is raised. Then safety pin is placed on the striker to hold it in place and the end of the pin inserted in the hole of the safety pin holding plate. Finally a rifle cartridge is put in the cartridge hole (D). The trip wire, which is inserted through its hole (M), is tied to one of the holes in the safety-pin-holding-plate (I), and the other end is tied to a fixed point. The wire tension is then properly adjusted.

b. When a person or an animal moves toward the hamlet and hits the trip wire, the safety pin (H) is released and the striker is pushed forward by its spring. When the firing pin on the striker strikes the primer of the cartridge, the latter explodes and sounds the alarm.

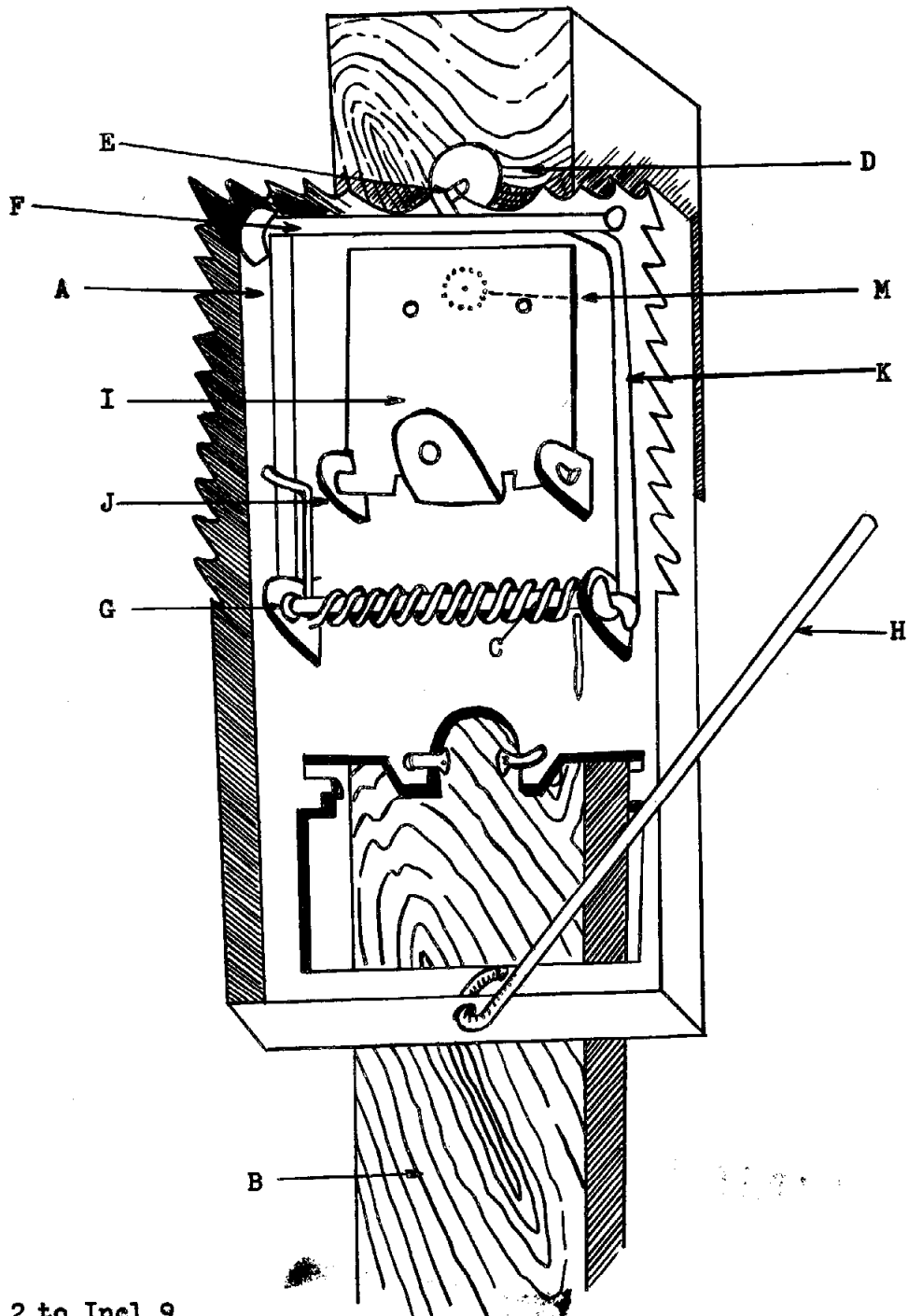
SIGNAL DEVICE #2

(MOUSE TRAP SET - CIRCUIT OPEN)



Incl 1 to Incl 9

SIGNAL DEVICE #2
(MOUSE TRAP SPRUNG - CIRCUIT CLOSED)



Incl 2 to Incl 9

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